

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION V

DATE: 10 MAR 1986

SUBJECT: Trip Report: Upper Great Lakes Connecting
Channels Study Mid-Course Workshop

FROM: Timothy C. Henry *Timothy C. Henry*
Unit II, Permits Section

TO: File

A workshop was held in Southgate, Michigan, from February 18-20, 1986, for participants in the Upper Great Lakes Connecting Channels Study (UGLCCS). The UGLCCS has been underway for over a year now and is intended to characterize the current status of the Channels and propose remedial measures as necessary. The workshop was organized to update participants on the status of the multitude of study activities underway and to allow participants to interact to identify gaps in the study and redirect activities as necessary. The workshop also provided the Canadians with a forum in which to describe their efforts related to the "toxic blob" in the St. Clair River.

Participants represented environmental agencies from the United States, Michigan, Canada, and Ontario, in addition to researchers from academia. I attended as a member of the Point Source workgroup. An attendance list is attached.

A report on the workshop is to be prepared for the participants and can be distributed upon request. The report should provide status summaries of study activities and formal workshop presentations. Rather than duplicating this effort, the following will summarize two initiatives that require follow up on my part.

Biomonitoring

Our current biomonitoring workplan provides for 17 Ames tests in Michigan, some or all of which might be from the Channels. Input was requested from the study participants to identify potential test sites. As a result, the coordination of our activities with testing, particularly Microtox (a rapid bacterial toxicity assay), by the Biota workgroup will be investigated. Results generated by other workgroups/studies will also be screened to identify potential Ames test sites.

Information exchange was also the topic of much discussion. Copies of EPA and EPA-sponsored biomonitoring test reports will be provided to the Biota workgroup and others, per request.

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BASF - Wyandotte Dump Superfund Site

The remedial activities undertaken at the BASF - Wyandotte Dump pursuant to a negotiated consent agreement have not prevented groundwater contamination. Recent monitoring for superfund has demonstrated high levels of certain organic and heavy metal contaminants in the groundwater and surface seepage. The effects of the continuing groundwater contamination may be an important consideration in the UGLCCS and its final recommendations. The Sediment and Nonpoint Source workgroups were informed of the situation and are investigating the possibility of shifting or initiating new activities to assess the impact of the dump on the Trenton Channel. Joe Rathbun of Raytheon has been involved in several projects on the Trenton Channel and will be sending me information on caged clam studies and sediment analyses, which might shed some light on the effects of the dump. I will work with Bonnie Elder of Waste Management Division to obtain groundwater data for the other UGLCCS workgroups and to investigate the possibility of conducting further studies to evaluate the impact of the groundwater contamination using superfund moneys.

Attachment

cc: Sutfin
Fenner
Manzardo
Pratt
Giattina
✓ Elder
Horvatin

ATTACHMENT FEB 3 1986 UGLCCS WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE

LAST	FIRST	ORG.	CITY/STATE (PROVINCE)	TELEPHONE NO.
Atasi, Khalil Z.		DWSD	Detroit, Michigan	(313) 297-9138
Aubert, Eugene J.		NOAA-GLERL	Ann Arbor, Michigan	(313) 668-2245
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